

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 AID-05 OPIC-03 OMB-01 /080 W
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P R 011225Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3945

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOARES ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR CONFIDENCE MOTION

SUMMARY: MARIO SOARES ANNOUNCED NOV 30 THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WILL PRESENT A CONFIDENCE MOTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE MOTION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE VOTED
FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR MORE. END SUMMARY.

1. SOARES ANNOUNCES CONFIDENCE MOTION: PRIME MINISTER SOARES
ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE LATE NOV 30 THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD PRESENT A MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY. SOARES WILL DELIVER A LETTER TO THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT
DEC 1 REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY. AT THE
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CONCLUSION OF HIS SPEECH, SOARES WILL PRESENT THE CONFIDENCE
MOTION. ASSEMBLY RULES PROVIDE THAT DEBATE ON THE CONFIDENCE
MOTION SHALL BEGIN THREE DAYS FOLLOWING THE MOTION'S PRESENTA-
TION; DEBATE MAY TAKE THREE ADDITIONAL DAYS. SOARES MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE:

-- REASONS FOR CONFIDENCE MOTION: AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN
REACHED ON THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES: COMPOSITION OF THE

GOVERNMENT, THE BUDGET AND PLAN FOR 1978, AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF.

-- PARTY POSITIONS: THE PSD REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET OR OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITHOUT A POLITICAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR PSD PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CDS, IT HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT. THE PCP DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT.

-- IF PCP SUPPORTS: THE PS WILL NEVER FORM AN ALLIANCE OR REACH AN AGREEMENT TO GOVERN WITH THE PCP. BUT IF THE PS AND CDS VOTED AGAINST THE CONFIDENCE MOTION AND THE PCP VOTED FOR, ALL VOTES COUNT THE SAME.

-- CONSENSUS ON IMF: NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES REVEALED THAT WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS ALL RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF.

-- SOCIALIST NO TO COALITION: PS MEMBERS WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY GOVERNMENT EXCEPT ONE MADE UP OF SOCIALISTS AND INDEPENDENTS.

-- NEW SOARES GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE: IF THE CONFIDENCE MOTION IS REJECTED, AND AFTER OTHER POSSIBILITIES ARE EXHAUSTED, SOARES WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT EANES TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT PROVIDING SOARES THOUGHT HE COULD PUT A GOVERNMENT TOGETHER.

2. OPPOSITION REACTION: THE OPPOSITION PARTIES REACTED TO SOARES'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND TO YESTERDAY'S NEGOTIATIONS AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWS:

-- CUNHA LEAL OF THE PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE: BARRING SOME UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT, THE PSD WILL VOTE TO REJECT THE CONFIDENCE MOTION.

-- FREITAS DO AMARAL, CDS PRESIDENT: THERE IS NO POINT IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS; IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT.

-- ALVARO CUNHAL, PCP SECRETARY-GENERAL: THE PCP WILL ONLY DECIDE ITS POSITION ON THE CONFIDENCE MOTION AT THE LAST MOMENT, BUT THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT GIVE A BLANK CHECK TO THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: SOARES MADE A STRONG AND AGGRESSIVE PRESENTATION IN AN EFFORT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. HIS REFUSAL TO DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVING THE CONFIDENCE MOTION WITH PCP SUPPORT SHOULD BE SEEN AS PART OF HIS TACTIC OF PRESSURING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO EASE THEIR TERMS. THE CONFIDENCE MOTION WILL NOT BE VOTED UNTIL LATE NEXT WEEK OR EARLY THE FOLLOWING WEEK, AND THE SOCIALISTS WILL USE THAT TIME FOR FURTHER QUIET NEGOTIATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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